



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Energy Office

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NEWS RELEASE

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INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS ON WIND ENERGY ARE PLANNED

Wind energy is the fastest growing energy technology in the world and has been for more than ten years. Wind energy has proven to be a powerful tool for rural economic development. Rural landowners are receiving \$2000 or more per year for each wind turbine sited on their land. Developers in Utah are currently planning up to a 200-megawatt wind farm that will generate more than \$400,000-500,000 per year in payments to landowners, and up to two million per year in county tax revenues. This \$200 million dollar project will create more than 200 jobs during construction and 6-8 full-time jobs once completed. This type of development has the potential to revitalize rural communities.

There is an emerging market in the U.S. for this clean, renewable energy source. The cost of wind energy has gone from more than \$0.25 per kilowatt-hour in 1985 to less than \$0.05 per kilowatt-hour in 2002. The nationwide electricity shortage has contributed to an increasing market for all types of new electrical generation and wind energy is expected to play a significant role.

A presentation explaining these new developments and what they could mean for rural communities in Utah is planned for 6 PM at the Tooele County Courthouse. The presenters will be Christine Watson from the Utah Energy Office, Sarah Wright from the Utah Wind Power Campaign, and Jay Haley from EAPC Architects Engineers in Grand Forks, ND.

Christine Watson has her Masters degree in Business Administration and a Civil and Environmental Engineering degree. Since March she has been working full-time on wind energy related issues at the Utah Energy Office. Her goal is to facilitate partnerships between landowners and wind developers to get large-scale wind turbines built in Utah as well as provide technical assistance to homeowners interested in small-scale wind.

Sarah Wright is Coordinator for the Utah Wind Power Campaign, a non-profit clean energy campaign, whose mission is to increase the deployment of wind power in Utah and the surrounding states.

Jay Haley, Mechanical Engineer and Partner with EAPC Architects Engineers in Grand Forks, ND, has been involved in wind energy for more than 20 years. He is currently consulting for a number of communities pursuing wind development in North Dakota, and has conducted more than 100 informational meetings in the Midwest.

The upcoming presentation will be held at the **Tooele County Courthouse, Thursday, January 17, 2002 at 6 PM Mountain Time**. These informational meetings are free and open to the public. For more information contact Christine Watson at the Utah Energy Office, (801) 538-4792 or 1-800-662-3633.

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